CLAIMS

1. An oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid which sequence-specifically binds to the RNA of a hepatitis C virus (HCV).

2. The oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid according to Claim 1 which hybridizes with the RNA of HCV under stringent conditions.

3. The oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid according to Claim 1 characterized in that the oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid hybridizes with the sequence of a 5' non-coding region of the RNA of HCV.

4. The oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid according to Claim 1 characterized in that the oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid hybridizes with the sequence of a highly identical region of the genetic sequences of a plurality of types of HCV different in genotype.

5. The oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid according to Claim 1 which is a double-stranded RNA.

6. The oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid according to Claim 1 which has a chain length of 19 to 23 bp.

7. An oligoribonucleotide having a nucleotide sequence shown in any one of SEQ ID Nos. 20 to 34.

8. An oligoribonucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions either with an RNA region of HCV having a sequence complementary to the oligoribonucleotide according to Claim 7 or an RNA region of HCV hybridizing under stringent conditions with said oligoribonucleotide.

9. An oligoribonucleotide represented by a nucleotide sequence consisting of 19 to 23 contiguous bases in any one of the nucleotide sequences shown in SEQ ID Nos. 47 to 55.

10. An oligoribonucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions either with an RNA region of HCV having a sequence complementary to the oligoribonucleotide according to Claim 9 or an RNA region of HCV hybridizing under stringent conditions with said oligoribonucleotide.

11. A vector which expresses the oligoribonucleotide according to any one of Claims 1 to 10.

12. A therapeutic agent for hepatitis C containing as an active ingredient the oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 or the vector according to Claim 11.

13. A method of inhibiting replication ability of HCV by allowing the oligoribonucleotide or peptide nucleic acid according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 to bind to the HCV-RNA.